



AN ASSOCIATION OF
MONTANA HEALTH
CARE PROVIDERS

Montana Hospitals Provide Community Mental Health Care Services

Mental health care treatment is a significant concern to legislators, law enforcement agencies and county governments. Stakeholders are working to provide more local services and reduce the reliance on state funding and the Montana State Hospital.

MHA wants you to know that hospitals are doing their part to provide needed care – and to provide that care closer to home.

Providing the Safety Net

Community hospitals provide secure emergency room care for patients without regard to their ability to pay. For example, during the past year:

- Kalispell Regional Medical Center provided \$1.1 million in uncompensated care at Pathways Treatment Center,
- Billings Clinic provided \$1.7 million in uncompensated care,
- St. Joseph Hospital in Polson added \$80,000 in uncompensated care and
- Glendive Medical Center provided \$150,000 in uncompensated care.

Similar experiences occur in hospitals all across the state.

Expanding Services

Hospitals in Billings, Great Falls, Missoula and Kalispell provide inpatient psychiatric care in special units.

Many other hospitals also provide inpatient treatment to mentally ill patients. For example, Bozeman Deaconess Hospital admitted 363 patients in 2008 with a primary or secondary mental health diagnosis.

At considerable cost, Glendive Medical Center and St. Peter's Hospital in Helena are restoring their psychiatric units. Expanding inpatient capacity is a key to increasing community treatment options and reducing demand for beds at the Montana State Hospital.

As part of its new emergency department, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital in Hamilton included a new secure room for crisis services.

Supporting Other Providers

Hospitals have a long history of helping other mental health providers develop and improve services.

Hospitals throughout southwest Montana fund Western Montana Mental Health Center crisis intervention teams in hospital emergency departments and elsewhere. For example, each year for these services:

- Livingston Healthcare contributes \$15,000,

- St. James Healthcare in Butte contributes \$35,000 and a like amount for crisis response teams and
- Hospitals in Polson, Ronan, Kalispell, Whitefish and Missoula make contribute , thousands more.

Without this financial support the Center could provide only telephone consultation.

Hospitals are taking other actions to expand support providers, including:

- Bozeman Deaconess Hospital donated 5 acres of land, valued at \$500,000, for a crisis intervention facility;
- St. James in Butte is providing support to recruit psychiatrists to the community and
- Glendive Medical Center is helping a local physician to complete a residency in psychiatry to bring those services to eastern Montana.

Innovative Crisis Intervention

The Community Crisis Center in Billings was started and operates with more than \$600,000 a year from the Billings Clinic and a similar amount from St. Vincent Healthcare. This Center provides appropriate crisis intervention services outside of the hospitals' emergency rooms. The Center has resulted in lower treatment costs and fewer commitments to the Montana State Hospital.